

The North Dakota Senate is considering [SB 2307](#), **this bill that would undermine the fundamental principle of free and open access to information in our libraries**. It would also place costly and unmanageable demands on library staff.

The library is an essential part of our state's families. Parents who take their children to the library show them how to use the resources available, what sections can be found and expand those children's minds by showing them the world outside of picture books. They don't need to be able to READ those books but seeing the library for more than a resource for small children is essential to expanding our communities' use and appreciation of the resources libraries can provide.

Limiting access to the grown-up sections of the library shuts off that ability for parents to teach their children organically how libraries function and what resources are available. You will stunt the growth of the next generation and diminish one of our community's most valuable resources. This will NOT prevent them from getting to the content you wish to shield them from, just make it more likely they will find it on the internet – without boundaries and without the moral guidance of their parents. You will only see the decline in usership of the library and the withdrawal of our children further into the online world – where they are already “checked out” and isolating from their communities.

Don't do this to our children, our community and our library!!!!!!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damita Engel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Damita Engel